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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS—CONVENTION OF PROTESTANT TEACHERS OF THE PROVINCE OF QUEBEC.

DR. PETERSON, OCTOBER 1900.

My first duty to-night is to thank you for the compliment you paid me in electing me to be your President, also for the way in which you did it. Many a politician at this moment would envy me my highly pleasurable experience. For, did I not pass through all the horrors of a contested election without being aware of it, and when the result of the poll was announced, was there any one more genuinely surprised than the successful candidate? That your choice should have fallen upon me, I take as a mark of confidence which is none the less welcome because I feel that I have done so little to deserve it; and if my election to the presidential office has involved the postponement of any hopes and ambitions that may have been rightfully cherished by others of your number—who have served the interests of education in this province longer than I can claim to have done,—I can only ask them to believe that I greatly appreciate the honour which has been paid to me, perhaps at their expense, and that I hope to hand on the office to a successor with its dignity and prestige unimpaired by any word or act of mine.

If I were free to choose my subject, I fancy I should hit